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London

Albemarle Street

May 11. 1770.

Gentlemen



I duly rec'd by Cap^t Gardiner
y^r letter dated March 25th 1770, written &
address'd to me in consequence of an Ap-
pointment of y^e Town of Boston. —

I did not want the Bloody proofs in
y^e Narrative you have communicated to me
gives, of the dangerous & destructive consequences
that must necessarily arise from a Military
establishment posted within the heart of a
Civil Jurisdiction, under such Arrangement
of Command as were attempted to be fix'd
in time of Peace within y^e Colonies.

I had only wondered that some thing of this
Sort had not happen'd sooner, & am now
only happy that y^e mischief has not gone
farther. I hope it is not only at an end
but that like some of those Momentary
Shocks of Nature w^t endanger y^e very be-
ing of the Region where they happen, while
in the Convulsion — it may purge away this
mischief that was y^e Component cause of
that Danger.

It is a common thing with Bodies of Men
as well as Individuals standing towards each
other in a State of Irreconcileable variance
to apprehend from each other mischiefs
which neither are capable of effecting

to Impair to each other evil designs w^tch
neither ever harbour'd - This state of Mind
leads them by way of Prejudgement, Recalpation
& Recrimination into representations w^tch take
their colour rather from imagined than existing
Facts - But as on occasion of the late Shocking
events at Boston, there has been I hope less of
this than on former occasions, so I do not find
people here so much dispos'd to enquire who
were the Aggressors, What were the occasions,
what the mutual provocations in the late Af-
fray, What y^e state of this particular Enga-
gements, as attentive to learn what is y^e State
& Cause of y^e Rebels in general w^tch they are
brought to this height of Malignancy - &
What may be the Remedy -

I had long ago given notice, without being
much attended to, that I woud lay before
Parliament what I thought to be y^e unconsti-
tutional state of y^e Military establishment
in America. I took advantage from y^e impri-
sions made on Mens Minds by y^e late events
to bring forward y^e consideration at this Time
by moving that an humble Address be pre-
sented to his Majesty, stating the Receipty
of some Remedy in this Case, & praying that
he woud be pleased to give directions w^t
the Advice of his privy Council, that these
Matters might be revis'd & examined into, to
the end that they may be explain'd, corrected
& amended, where they interfer'd or Clash'd w^t
each other, or contain'd any Matters contrary
to Law & the Constitution.

The Ministry woud the Question of Adjournment
upon my Motion, but allowing that the ground
w^tch I had taken of Doubt in point of Law
& the Constitution, of confusion in the Execu-

tion & of Danger in the Consequences not only to
the Political Liberty of the Community, but
to the franchises of the People was good &
sufficient, & did call for some remedy in
the case, & ^{having} declared that His Majesty had
given Directions to have the Law of Law
Laid before the Crown Lawyers, & the matter
to be revis'd & Amend'd upon that Foundation
that shou'd appear to be right & legal; &
that in general every thing that the Address
did or cou'd desire wou'd be done in Conse-
quence thereof. Upon this our friends tho'
they did not think fit to withdraw the
Motion for the Address, yet did not
think proper to divide, as considering it
best to hold the Ministers plaid by
their Declaration & our Acquiescence under
it. — & I own I think, as do many of your
Friends here, w^m whom I have communica-
ted upon this occasion, that it wou'd be
wise in you in Point of Policy to give
Credit to this Declaration, & to suspend
all Opposition on this Point as Considering
the Ministry having plaid^d themselves to
rectify it according to Law & the Constitu-
tion; especially as you are now free from
all Danger of any evil Consequence arising
from it, as the Ministry have declared that
as the Troops are now withdrawn, so they
shall never be sent back until the Civil
Magistrate, shall call for & employ their
aid in support of the Civil Government
& I shou'd guess is never likely to happen.
As I have said before that there was no
Disposition among people here to enquire
into the particular Actions & transaction
in the late Calamity at Boston

So you will find that no Notice has been taken either by Ministry or Opposition of any of the Events w'd have arisen on this occasion, otherwise than to look to the Cause in general & the remedy - yet one Observation I think it just to make to you, that one sentiment has unanimously arisen in the Minds of all express'd in a wish & Hope from all quarters that no Prejudice, Ressentment, or party consideration whatsoever may operate in the unhappy Case of Cap^t Preston & the Soldiers, but on the contrary it woud do more Honor to the Spirit & Temper of your People to shew Mercy, than to exact Severe Justice.

I beg you to mark my respects to T Town & to assure them of my readiness in all cases & upon all occasions to engage in their service

I beg you Gentlemen to accept my partic:
ular respects -

I am Gentlemen

Y most Obed

Y most humble

To The Hon^t James Bowdoin Esqr

To Sam^t Pemberton Esqr
Joseph Warren

Committee of T Town of Boston.

L. Howall

London May 15. 1770
John: Anthony Dealer